that can be taken to this determination is that the scale of the wedge photometer may not be accurately applicable. But here we have the distinct assertion of the Astronomer Royal, reiterated again by M. Trépied, that the Pritchard Argelander scales are in very satisfactory accord. This circumstance is the more gratifying for two reasons. First, because it is distinctly stipulated in resolution 19 (1889), "Chaque observateur devra s'attacher à obtenir sur ses clichés destinés au catalogue la grandeur 11·0 déterminée aussi exactement que possible *au moyen de l'échelle d'Argelander.*" The maintenance, therefore, of the scale of Argelander becomes of paramount importance, and this one could scarcely hope to effect by means of the gauze screens. The second satisfactory point is, that Prof. Pritchard is endeavouring to secure uniformity in the photographed stars by distributing among the participating observatories small charts of particular regions of the sky on which are marked stars of the 9th and 11th magnitudes approximately. Naturally in the determination of the magnitudes of the stars on these charts, the scale of Argelander will be perpetuated, and inasmuch as the testimony of several astronomers is distinctly in favour of making use of these typical areas, it seems very probable that Argelander magnitudes will be prolonged in the catalogue work down to the faintest stars impressed.

NOTES.

THE summer meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers will be held in Portsmouth, and will begin on Tuesday, July 26. The following papers have been offered for reading and discussion, not necessarily in the order here given:—On shipbuilding in Portsmouth dockyard, by Mr. William H. White, F.R.S.; on the applications of electricity in the Royal dockyards and navy, by Mr. Henry E. Deadman; description of the lifting and hauling appliances in Portsmouth dockyard, by Mr. John T. Corner, R.N.; description of the new Royal pier at Southampton, by Mr. James Lemon; description of the Portsmouth sewage outfall works, by Sir Frederick Bramwell, F.R.S., Past-President; description of the new floating bridge between Portsmouth and Gosport, by Mr. H. Graham Harris; description of the Southampton sewage precipitation works and refuse destructor, by Mr. William B. G. Bennett; description of the experimental apparatus and shaping machine for ship models at the Admiralty experiment works, Haslar, by Mr. R. Edmund Froude; description of the pumping engines and water softening machinery at the Southampton water works, by Mr. William Matthews.

THE half-yearly general meeting of the Scottish Meteorological Society was held at Edinburgh on Monday, July 18. The council of the society submitted its report; and Dr. Buchan read a paper on variation in the annual rainfall in Scotland since 1800.

THE Museums Association held its annual meeting in Manchester, at the Owens College, on July 5, 6, and 7, under the presidency of Prof. Boyd Dawkins, whose address we print elsewhere. Among those present at the meeting were Dr. Ward, Principal of Owens College, Prof. Flower, Prof. Miall, the Rev. Canon Hicks, Prof. Milnes Marshall, the Rev. H. H. Higgins, and Prof. Weiss. Mr. J. Willis Clark, the retiring president, was unfortunately prevented from attending. The following papers were read and discussed:—On the arrangement of botanical museums, by Prof. F. E. Weiss.—On the cultivation of special features in museums, by the Rev. H. H. Higgins.—Local museums of art and history, by the Rev. Canon Hicks.—On the Manchester Art Museum, by Mr. T. C. Horsfall.—On the preparation of picture catalogues, by Mr. Butler Wood.—On the colouring of the background of museum cases, by Mr. Edgar R. Waite.—On the best means of preserving vegetable structures, and on a collection illustrating the life-histories of the British Lepidoptera, by Mr. J. W. Carr.—On the exclusion of dust, by Mr. T. Pridgin Teale; and library and museum legislation, by Mr. E. Howarth. Mr. Pacy and Mr. Ogle, who had been deputed by the Libraries' Association to attend the meeting, took part in the discussion of the last paper. A Committee of the Museums' Association was appointed to confer with the Libraries' Association on the possibility of taking steps to improve library and museum legislation. Most of the members of the Museums' Association who took part in the discussion were of opinion that the restrictions at present placed upon the action of Town Councils with regard to libraries and museums were unnecessary and obsolete. The meeting was a very successful one, thanks to the energy and good management of Mr. W. E. Hoyle and Prof. Milnes Marshall. The reception accorded to the Association by the authorities of the Owens College was of the most cordial nature, and the Association is indebted to Dr. Ward and several of his colleagues for much kindness. It was agreed to hold the next annual meeting in London under the presidency of Prof. Flower.

MR. WILLIAM E. PLUMMER has been appointed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, director of the Liverpool Observatory, in the room of Mr. J. Hartnup, deceased. Hitherto this Observatory has done little more than regulate chronometers required for the port of Liverpool, but we understand that the Observatory will now be reorganized and made to play a more active part in observational astronomy, and one worthier of the equipment of the Observatory and the generous support the board accord to it.

DR. W. H. INCE, Ph.D. (Würzburg), Demonstrator of Chemistry in University College, Liverpool, has been appointed Demonstrator of Physics and Chemistry in the Medical School of St. Thomas's Hospital.

MR. A. H. LEAHY, M.A., Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, has been elected to the Professorship of Mathematics at Firth College, Sheffield. Mr. Leahy is a Mathematical Lecturer and Junior Bursar of his College, and is the author of several important papers on mathematical physics.

MR. R. ELLIOT STEEL, Senior Science Master of the Bradford Grammar School, has been appointed by the Technical Instruction Committee of the Corporation of Plymouth to the Head Mastership of the Science Department of their new technical schools, Plymouth.

THE Master and Wardens of the Drapers' Company of the City of London recently gave £3000 towards the erection of the new technical schools attached to the Nottingham University College, and have now given a further sum of £1000 towards their equipment.

"COOK'S TOURS" are well known all over the civilized world, and vast numbers of Englishmen have been indebted to them for some of the brightest and pleasantest experiences of their lives. Everyone, therefore, was sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Thomas Cook, the founder of the system. He died at Leicester on Monday in his eighty-fourth year. Mr. Cook was a man of immense energy, and may almost be said to have had a touch of genius. At all events he had a very remarkable faculty for organization, and did much to foster among the British public a just appreciation of the advantages to be derived from foreign travel. Last year the jubilee of his firm was celebrated.

THE volcanic forces of Mount Etna have continued in a state of violent activity. On the afternoon of July 14 it was stated, in a Reuter's telegram from Catania, that there were then eighteen openings in the mountain, of which nine were active. "The lava," said the writer, "is flowing in the direction of Nicolosi at the rate of 50 yards an hour. It has already passed the deposit of lava formed by the eruption of 1886. The flow towards Pedara is less rapid. Every hour the devastation increases, and the alarm of the inhabitants grows in proportion. Their terror is not lessened by the explosions and rumblings proceeding from the volcano." On July 15 a Reuter's telegram from Catania stated that the eruption was that day more formidable than ever. "The main crater is extending in size, and the showers of stones and masses of molten matter are continually increasing in volume, some of the projectiles being carried to a height of 1000 feet. Meanwhile, two fresh cones, 800 feet in height, have been formed, and from these streams of lava are constantly flowing in the direction of Nicolosi, from which they are now only about two miles distant. No immediate danger threatens the inhabitants of the village, but the destruction caused to the surrounding country goes on increasing." On July 16 and 17 telegrams to a like effect were despatched. On the latter date, indeed, it was stated that the eruption had been less active on the previous night, and the reports of the internal explosions less frequent and not so loud; but the volcano continued to throw up enormous blocks of incandescent rock together with clouds of steam. The lava stream had reached the village of Venatura, where it had destroyed several houses, besides doing enormous damage to the adjacent chestnut woods. On the 18th it was announced from Catania that during the previous night loud rumblings had continued, and that the discharge from the craters of Mount Etna had increased in violence, stones and ashes being projected to a height of over 1200 feet. In the morning the subterranean noises were less frequent and not so loud. At Patagonia, besides the volcanic explosions proceeding from Mount Etna, subterranean rumblings had been heard, while in the neighbouring naphtha lake, and the fountains of Vachella, gaseous eruptions had occurred. On the 19th, although the smoke proceeding from the craters was less dense, the eruption continued with renewed violence. The subterranean rumblings were more frequent and of longer duration, but not so loud as during the previous days.

On July 15 it was announced from Naples that Mount Vesuvius had become active, and that lava in large quantities was pouring down the part of the mountain called the Atrio del Cavallo.

During the latter part of last week the weather over these islands was much disturbed by the influence of a deep depression which lay over the Baltic. The temperature was below 60° in the northern and below 70° in the southern parts of the kingdom, and the rainfall exceeded an inch in the south of Ireland. At the close of the week another depression appeared over the Bay of Biscay, and spread over our southern districts, accompanied by rain, while owing to the northerly winds the temperature continued very low, the maxima scarcely exceeding 60° in any part. In London on Sunday it did not exceed 55°, which, with about one exception, is the lowest daily maximum in July during the last half-century. During Monday night a deep depression advanced over Scotland from the northward, and travelled south-eastwards, accompanied by heavy rain, while on Tuesday increasing winds or gales were experienced on all our coasts, the wind direction varying from N.E. to N.W. and W. According to the *Weekly Weather Report* the rainfall for the week ending the 16th instant was considerably less than the mean in all the northern districts, while over the eastern, central, and southern parts of the kingdom there was a considerable excess, the amount being in many cases more than double the mean for the week. Temperature was below the mean in all districts excepting the Channel Islands; in the eastern and central parts of England the deficiency for the week amounted to from four to six degrees.

Last week two despatches were received at the Colonial Office from Mr. Jerningham, Acting Governor of Mauritius, relative to the recent hurricane there. Mr. Jerningham states that the lives lost through the disaster were 1230, and the number of wounded still living 3167. Over sixty-two churches and chapels had been damaged or wrecked, and there had been a partial and enforced cessation of the celebration of Divine service throughout the island. The number of public buildings injured was 123, and the damage done to Government property was estimated at 286,807 rupees. The injury to the railways would cost about 55,435 rupees to make good. All the telegraph wires throughout the island were destroyed. About 16,976 houses and huts had been destroyed or damaged, exclusive of those in Port Louis, and about 170 sugar factories had been wrecked or injured. The task of repairing these disasters was one of great magnitude, and wholly beyond the unaided power of the colony. A later despatch states that in Port Louis 1453 houses, churches, and public buildings, representing a value of nearly five million rupees, had been wholly or partially destroyed.

The *Kew Bulletin* for May and June contains several contributions which will be of great interest to botanists and to various classes connected with the industrial applications of botany. One of these contributions is a valuable report (with a plate) by Mr. George Massee on a disease that has attacked vanilla plants in Seychelles. In the same number are printed the second of the Decades Kewenses Plantarum Novarum in Herbario Horti Regii conservatarum, and the second decade of new orchids. An excellent illustration of the way in which the authorities at Kew seek to promote industry is afforded by a correspondence on Sansevieria fibre from Somali-land. The increased attention devoted to the production of white rope fibres in the Western tropics appears to have had a stimulating effect in the East Indies, and now the production of fibre from *Agave vivipara* in Bombay and Manila is followed by a fibre obtained from Somaliland from a singular species of Sansevieria. This fibre was first received in this country as an "Aloe" fibre. It was soon noticed, however, that it possessed characteristics differing from all ordinary "Aloe" fibre, and a request was made to the Foreign Office that Colonel Stace should be invited to obtain for the Royal Gardens a small sample of the fibre, a large leaf from the plant yielding it, and, if possible, a few small plants for growing in the Kew collection. In due time the specimens arrived in excellent order, and it was found that the fibre is one of the many so-called Bow-string Hemps, and probably yielded by *Sansevieria Ehrenbergii*, a plant first collected by Dr. Schweinfürth. Little or nothing was known of it until it was described by Mr. J. J. Baker, F.R.S., in the Journal of the Linnean Society, vol. xiv., p. 549. Its locality is there stated as "between Athara and the Red Sea." The plant is described in a letter to the Foreign Office, written by Mr. D. Morris, as a very interesting one, and he adds that its existence as a source of a valuable supply of fibre will be sure to awaken attention among commercial men in Great Britain. Messrs. Ide and Christie, writing to Mr. Morris, speak of the fibre as an excellent one of fair length and with plenty of "life." "In character," they say, "it strongly resembles the best Sisal hemp, with which we should have classed it but for your statement that it is derived from Sansevieria. With the exception of its colour, its preparation is perfect, and even as it is, we value it to-day at £25 per ton. We are of opinion that if care were taken to improve the colour a considerably higher price would be readily attainable, perhaps as much as £50 per ton, if a pure white fibre could be attained without loss of strength and lustre."

AMONG the other contents of this number of the *Kew Bulletin* is an account of the fibre industry in the Bahamas, communicated to Kew by Sir Ambrose Shea, Governor of the Bahamas. Extracts from a report by Mr. A. White, a naturalist attached to the staff of Mr. H. H. Johnston, H.M.'s Commissioner and Consul-General for the territories under British influence to the north of the Zambesi, throw welcome light on the botany of Milanji in Nyassaland. Mr. N. E. Brown contributes notes on the botany of plants yielding Paraguay tea. There are also sections on the Nonnen pest in Bavaria, the prickly pear in Mexico, and the Palmyra bass fibre.

THE collection of hardy bamboos and allied plants having outgrown the space allotted them in the beds near the Temperate House of the Royal Gardens, Kew, a new garden has been made for them in a wood near the Rhododendron Dell. Of this garden the *Kew Bulletin* gives the following account:—It is in the form of a shallow depression with sloping banks 12 feet wide and a central pear-shaped bed 125 feet by 75 feet. To make it, the surface soil had to be removed and the gravel taken out to a depth of about 3 feet. A large quantity of new soil and manure was added so that the bamboos have now a good depth of rich soil. Two new paths leading to the Bamboo Garden have been made, one from the Syon vista and the other from the Stafford walk. The bamboos planted in the garden are:—*Arundinaria Fortunei* (Bambusa Fortunei), *A. japonica* (Bambusa Metake), *Bambusa albo-striata*, *B. gracilis*, *B. nana* (Hort), *B. palmata*, *B. plicata*, *B. pumila*, *B. tessellata*, *B. Veitchii*, *Phyllostachys bambusoides*, *P. nigra*, *P. Quilloi* (Bambusa Quilloi), *P. violescens* (Bambusa violescens), *P. viridi-glaucescens* (Bambusa viridi-glaucescens), *Thamnocalamus Falconeri* (Bambusa Falconeri), and several others unnamed. Besides bamboos it contains such plants as *Arundo*, *Eulalia*, *Crinum*, *Funkia*, *Yucca*, &c. It is also intended to bring together in this garden a number of the coarser growing monocotyledonous plants which can be grown in the open air at Kew.

ACCORDING to an official "Notification of the Trustees of the Schwestern Fröhlich Stiftung" at Vienna, certain donations and pensions will be granted from the funds of this charity this year in accordance with the will of the testatrix, Miss Anna Fröhlich, to deserving persons of talent who have distinguished themselves in any branch of science, art, or literature who may be in want of pecuniary support, either through accident, illness, or infirmity consequent upon old age. The grant of such temporary or permanent assistance in the form of donations or pensions is, according to the terms of the foundation deed, primarily intended for Austrian artists, literary men, and men of science, but foreigners of every nationality, English and other, may likewise participate, provided they are resident in Austria. Particulars may be obtained at the Austrian Embassy, London.

MR. T. S. SHEARMEN, of Brantford, Canada, has recently issued a pamphlet, in which he claims priority in the discovery of the fact that the influence of sun-spots on terrestrial magnetic conditions depends upon the positions of the spots on the sun's disc as seen from the earth. He states that he has succeeded in convincing Prof. Young that this claim is justified. His observations have led him to believe that, in the great majority of cases, magnetic disturbances are most numerous when spots are at or near the eastern limb. In many cases, however, especially when the spots were very large, the disturbances have been greatest when the spots were near the central meridian; but even then it is stated that on nearly every occasion in which this has happened, another spot was making its appearance on the eastern limb. M. Veeder (NATURE, vol. xlvi. p. 29) also concludes that in order for a solar disturbance to have its full magnetic effect upon the earth, it is necessary that it should be at the sun's eastern limb, and as nearly as possible in the plane of the earth's orbit.

IN the tenth annual report of the Fishery Board for Scotland a striking instance is given of the advantage which persons engaged in the fishery industry derive from the electric telegraph. The Orkney officer reports that on Saturday morning, August 22, a large shoal of herrings was discovered about three to seven miles off the island of Stronsay by a few boats which happened to be at sea. Having ascertained the position of this shoal the officer wired the particulars, for the fishermen's information, to all the stations in Orkney. On the Monday following every boat employed in the herring fishery in Orkney was on the fishing ground indicated, with the result that the heaviest fishing ever obtained in one day in Orkney (for the number of boats employed) was landed on Tuesday, the average catch for the whole fleet being fifty crans. The number of boats fishing was 108, and their total catch was 5400 crans, valued at £3240, a large proportion of which would have been lost but for the telegraph. Wick fishermen having also been apprised of the circumstance, a number of the Caithness boats had good takes on the same ground and landed them at Wick. Consequent upon such a heavy and unexpected fishing, additional coopers, gutters, packers, barrels, and salt had to be immediately sent for from Wick so that the herrings might be cured while they were in a fresh state, and this was accomplished by means of the telegraph.

AN interesting exhibit of tobacco will be sent from Kentucky to the Chicago Exhibition. There will be exhibits of different varieties of plants in various stages of growth, and illustrations of the manner of shipping and handling "the weed" from the time the seed is put in the ground until the final product is ready for use. The various ways in which tobacco is used in manufacture will also be illustrated.

DURING the last few years much has been said about the supposed European origin of the so-called Aryan race. The honour of having first suggested this theory is usually attributed to Dr. Latham, but, according to Dr. D. G. Brinton, it really belongs to Omalius d'Halloy. In *Science* (June 24), Dr. Brinton refers to a paper in the *Bulletins de l'Académie Royale de Belgique*, tome xv., No. 5, May, 1848, entitled "Observations sur la distribution ancienne des peuples de la race blanche," in which Omalius begins by speaking of a series of notes presented by him to the Academy from 1839 to 1844. In these notes he had sought to prove that the Asiatic origin of the white race had never been demonstrated. Having recorded this fact, he proceeds "to discuss the evidence, physiological, historical, and linguistic, which had been thought to show that the Indo-European peoples originated in Asia; and combats it at every point, marshalling his arguments to prove that the true white type is distinctly European; and that the ancient Sanscrit and Zend are in no wise maternal languages of the Indo-European stock, but merely sisters of the Greek, Latin, and ancient German." The earliest date at which Dr. Latham expressed similar views was 1851.

SOME suggestive notes on Fuegian languages, by Dr. D. G. Brinton, were read lately before the American Philosophical Society. He refers to a very early Fuegian vocabulary, collected by the French navigator, Jouan de la Guilbaudière, during a sojourn of eleven months in the Straits of Magellan during the year 1695. It includes about three hundred words and short phrases, and no part of it has been published. The MS. copy of it in Dr. Brinton's possession he owes to the courtesy of M. Gabriel Marcel, the Librarian of the Geographical Section of the National Library of France. As M. Marcel intends to give it publicity in the Compte-rendu of the Congress of Americanists, Dr. Brinton contents himself with illustrating its character by a limited selection of words. These show that the basis of the tongue is Alikuluf, and it differs, he says, scarcely more from the Alikuluf of the present generation than do between themselves the vocabularies of that tongue by Fitzroy and Dr. Hyades in the present century. A few words belonging to the Tsoneca and the Yahgan may be detected, probably introduced by trading natives.

THE new number of the Journal of the College of Science, Imperial University, Japan (vol. v., Part 1), contains studies on reproductive elements, by C. Ishikawa; further studies on the formation of the germinal layers in Chelonia, by K. Mitsukuri; papers on the development of *Limulus longispina*, and on the lateral eyes of the spider, by Kamakichi Kishinouye; a paper on the formation of the germinal layers in Petromyzon, by S. Hatta; and notes on a collection of birds from Tsushima, by I. Ijima. The papers are most carefully illustrated.

WE have also received the second part of the first volume of "Iconographia Floræ Japonicæ," by Ryōkichi Yatabe (Tokyo: Z. B. Maruya and Co.). The work consists of descriptions, in Japanese, of plants indigenous to Japan, with figures.

MR. T. E. BUCKLEY contributes to the current number of the Annals of Scottish Natural History some interesting notes on the vertebrate fauna of Sutherland and Caithness. The object of the notes is to bring the fauna of these two countries up to date. One bird, the ruff, is new to the Sutherland list, and Mr. Buckley is able to show the spread of certain other species such as the stock dove, tree pipit, &c. Eagles still hold their ground fairly well, but other birds of prey show a decrease. This, the author thinks, is only what might be expected, but it is sad, he says, to see how the hen harrier is rapidly approaching extermination. Plantations are growing up, and increase the number and breeding areas of certain species. When staying at Badenoch, he has been repeatedly struck in the autumn with the attraction which a few (say three or four hundred) small firs, a garden, and an acre or two of cultivated ground, have for migrating birds. Constantly in the early October mornings he has seen flocks of small birds, such as greenfinches, chaffinches, &c., descend into these trees, rest for a short time, then, with an unanimous twitter, rise up and pursue their onward course. As a rule everything was quiet for the day by nine o'clock.

AT the meeting of the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria on May 9, Mr. T. S. Hall read an interesting note on musical sands. While on a trip to Phillip Island at Christmas time, Mr. Hall was struck by the musical note given out by the sea sand when walked over. He had never noticed this phenomenon before, though it occurs not uncommonly in other parts of the world. His first idea was that the sound was caused by the india-rubber soles of his shoes, but he found he could get the musical note by striking the sand with his hand, or by drawing a stick rapidly over the surface. The sound was produced only where the sand was dry, and resembled almost exactly that caused by drawing the finger rapidly over a piece of corded silk. On making the sound by skating over the surface, he found that the note could be detected at a distance of forty paces. The sands were musical wherever he tried them about Cowes, and the only person to whom he spoke who had noticed the phenomenon said he had also noticed it at San Remo. Mr. Hall has since tried the sand at Geelong, Barwon Heads and Warrnambool without any result. He referred to the theories of Mr. Carus-Wilson on the one hand, and Dr. A. A. Julien and Prof. H. C. Bolton on the other, and expressed a hope that some attention would be given to the subject in Australia.

IN the latest quarterly statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund it is said that considerable progress is being made with the Akka-Damascus Railway, the route of which, after various expensive surveys, has been definitely decided upon. The line chosen is practically that first suggested by Major Conder, R.E., several years ago. Beginning at the great fortress of Acre, the railway will run down the plain of Acre parallel with the sea, throwing out a branch to Haifa, at the northern foot of Mount Carmel, and thence to and across the plain of Esdraelon, passing near Nazareth to Shunem and Jezreel, and through the valley of Jezreel, skirting the slope of the hills, to the River Jordan, which will be crossed within sight of Bethshean. The Jordan here offers exceptional facilities for the erection of the railway bridge, consisting of two spans. Not only are the two opposite banks of the river formed of solid rock, but the centre of the river contains a large block of similar rock, from which each span of the bridge will be thrown to the east and west bank respectively. From the Jordan the railway will ascend the slope of the Jaulan Plateau, along the crests that close the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee, this ascent constituting the only difficult portion of the line, but which the surveys now made show to be much easier of accomplishment than was originally anticipated. The plateau near El 'Al being reached, an easy gradient will carry the line by Seil Nawa and Kesweh to Damascus. Passing through the finest plains of Western and Eastern Palestine, the railway will be one of great importance. The authorities of the Palestine Exploration Fund are of opinion that its construction can hardly fail to lead to important archæological discoveries, and the committee hope to make arrangements for obtaining full information respecting these.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Pig-tailed Monkey (*Macacus nemestrinus*) from Java, presented by Major Day; two Red-handed Tamarins (*Midas rufimanus*) from Surinan, presented by Mr. J. J. Quelch, C.M.Z.S.; two Sœmmerring's Gazelles (*Gazella sœmmerringi* ♂ ♀), three Egyptian Gazelles (*Gazella dorcas* ♂ ♀ ♀) from Suakim, presented by Colonel Holled Smith, C.B.; a Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*), European, presented by Mr. J. Newton Hayley; a Slender-billed Cockatoo (*Licmetis tenuirostris*) from South Australia, presented by Mrs. Duppa; a Rough-eyed Cayman (*Alligator sclerops*) from South America, presented by Dr. Rudyard; two Dwarf Chameleons (*Chamæleon pumilus*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. E. Windgate; a Common Chameleon (*Chamæleon vulgaris*) from North Africa, presented by Mr. J. Cornwall; two Green Lizards (*Lacerta viridis*), two Green Tree Frogs (*Hyla arborea*), European, presented by Count Pavoleri, F.Z.S.; a Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) from Texas, presented by Mr. Conrad Kelsal; a West African Python (*Python sebæ*) from West Africa, received in exchange; six Mandarin Ducks (*Æx galericulata*), five Summer Ducks (*Æx sponsa*), seven Chilian Pintails (*Dafila spinicauda*), six Australian Wild Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*), a Variegated Sheldrake (*Tadorna variegata*), four Upland Geese (*Bernicla magellanica*), a Cheer Pheasant (*Phasianus wallichii*), a Himalayan Monaul (*Lophophorus impeyamus*), bred in the Gardens.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

A NEW NEBULOUS STAR.—Mr. Barnard, in *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3101, gives a brief account of a new nebulous star that he found when photographing, on May 31 last, a region situated in the Milky Way, 18h. 10m., – 20°. This star (B.D. – 19°·4953), when examined (visually) with his 12-inch, was quite devoid of nebulosity owing to the brightness of the star in question, but the photograph showed a faint nebulosity of about 15′ in diameter symmetrically surrounding it. A